BATTLE LOOMS over KIDS HOUSING LAW

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FIGURATION A NEO-ART MODE

PROFESSOR McGOVERN at UCSB

PSYCHEDELICS TODAY
Professor McGovern's Political Education

McGovern believes he may be the man to redeem liberalism in the 1984 presidential election.

I hope there's someone in the race I can support, but if no one comes along, I'll seriously consider making another race.

By Joan Walsh N&R Staff Writer

100 percent in morality from the Voice was Florida's Rep. Robert Kelly. He was convicted last year in the FBI's Abscam probe.

New Right Who's Who

As head of the New Right freshmen for Common Sense, McGovern has studied the network of 50 or so right-wing groups that wielded such clout in the '80 election. He offered his students a Who's Who of the radical right: Howard Phillips of the Conservative Caucus, Terry Dolan of the National Conservative Political Action Committee, Paul Weyrich of the Committee for the Survival of a Free Congress ("The worse they are, the lofter the title," he noted).

To fight such groups, McGovern believes, liberals will have to adopt some of their methods and strategies. Already, groups like his own are springing up among liberals—Norman Lear formed People for the American Way and U.S. Senators Morris Udall and Ted Kennedy have their own political action committees to funnel money to liberal candidates. Come 1982, McGovern believes the liberals targeted for defeat by the right will have a fighting chance. "The religious right crested in 1980—their targets are ready for them."

But McGovern is generally displeased with the Democratic Party's response to a year of Reaganism. "The Democrats have done a terrible job—they've mostly gone along with Reagan. I don't know anything he's wanted and hasn't gotten except Social Security [cuts]. The Democrats have to get off their duffs and offer some alternatives.

To this point, though, McGovern's alternatives have been tactical. Now that Americans for Common Sense has had time to develop electoral strategies to compete with those of the right, McGovern said it will work on formulating competing ideas. First among them will be a foreign policy that doesn't bank on fighting and winning nuclear war.

"If you're discussing morality in politics, I think it's a moral concern to resist this country's drift toward nuclear war. We haven't had one yet because of the knowledge that no matter who struck first both sides would be destroyed. ..we have avoided nuclear war because we have the reasonable defense policy" will be issued in the next month, and other alternative policy proposals will be drafted each month thereafter.

But even of those proposals, McGovern made it clear, "will be radical." When a student asked what the former senator was doing to unite the various groups on the left to fight the Republican menace, he responded emphatically that his was "not a left group. We have no basic quarrel with moderates and conservatives who are offended by the New Right. This isn't 'Left vs. Right', but the effort by forces of fairness, tolerance and decency that are very much in the mainstream.

His defense of women's rights, welfare programs, and civil liberties is hardly mainstream politics, of course, but that's a measure of how far to the right the center has moved. Deep down, McGovern believes, paralysis will be vindicated, that articulated sincerely and sold correctly it can fend off threats from the radical left and right.

He believes the left may be the man to keep the promises of liberalism. While he reported reporters Monday afternoon that he has "no plans to run" for presidency, he "hasn't shut the door, either. I hope there's someone in the race I can support, but if no one comes along, I'll seriously consider making another run."

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